Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 02078 031827Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 (ISO) W
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R 031717Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9213
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2078

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, UNGA, KS, KN, BE
SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN MEETING IN BRUSSELS

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 1411, (B) BRUSSELS 1218, (C) 76 BRUSSELS 10461,
(D) 76 BRUSSELS 4520

SUMMARY: PRO-NORTH KOREAN WORLD CONFERENCE FINALLY MET IN BRUSSELS FEBRUARY 21-22 AND WAS VIRTUALLY IGNORED BY BELGIAN MEDIA. NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA WAS NOT PERMITTED TO ATTEND. END SUMMARY.

1. THE OFT-POSTPONED PRO-NORTH KOREAN "WORLD CONFERENCE ON THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 02078 031827Z

PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF KOREA" ATTRACTED SEVERAL HUNDRED DELEGATES FROM LEFTIST PARTIES FROM SOME FIFTY COUNTRIES. THE SCANT-AND MUCH OF IT NEGATIVE- LOCAL PRESS PLAY AND THE FACT THAT THE SEVEN-MAN NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION CONTAINED THREE OR FOUR PRESS AND CAMERAMEN LED FOREIGN MINISTRY'S FAR EASTERN DIRECTOR (STEYAERT) TO CONCLUDE THAT NORTH KOREA PROBABLY INTENDED TO AIM ITS PROPAGANDA AT NON-EUROPEAN, THIRD WORLD TARGETS. PRESS ACCOUNTS SUGGEST MEETING

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

FOLLOWED PREPARED AGENDA (REFTEL A) BUT NO ONE HAS SEEN ANY FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

2. SOUTH KOREAN DCM EXPRESSED TO US SATISFACTION AT MINIMAL PRESS COVERAGE AND WAS PLEASED THAT NORTH KOREANS DID NOT COME UP WITH ANY ANTI-PARK SOUTH KOREANS TO PUT ON DISPLAY.

3. ONE PRESS ACCOUNT REPORTED THAT A SOCIALIST MEMBER OF JAPANESE PARLIAMENT (DEN) AS WARNING CONFERENCE THAT EVEN IF PRESIDENT CARTER WITHDREW SOME U.S. TROOPS FROM KOREA, JAPANESE WOULD TAKE OVER THE U.S. ROLE ON THE PENINSULA.

4. BEFORE CONFERENCE CONVENED, LEADING BRUSSELS DAILY PROMINENTLY LABELLED THE MEETING A MARXIST PROPAGANDA EXERCISE ORGANIZED AND FINANCED BY PYONYANG. ANOTHER NEWSPAPER FEATURED A PHOTO OF DEMONSTRATORS IN FRONT OF THE MEETING SITE WITH A PLACARD READING "NORTH KOREANS, GO SELL YOUR DRUGS TO DENMARK." TWO PAPERS SUGGESTED THAT INSTEAD OF DISCUSSING UNIFICATION, THE PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE DISCUSSING NORTH KOREAN DEBT - BF 800 MILLION (US$21.6 MILLION) TO BELGIUM OUT OF A TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT OF BF 50 BILLION (STEYAERT SAID BF 800 MILLION FIGURE WAS GENERALLY CORRECT.)

5. STEYAERT TOLD US THAT AT THE LAST MINUTE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR DIJN IN GENEVA REQUESTED PERMISSION TO VISIT BELGIUM FEBRUARY 17-19 TO DISCUSS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS QUESTION OF NORTH KOREAN COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION IN BRUSSELS (REFTEL D). NOT WANTING DJIN IN TOWN SO CLOSE TO NORTH KOREAN MEETING, FOREIGN MINISTRY REPLIED THAT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME. DJIN TELEPHONED BACK AND ADMITTED HE REALLY WANTED
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TO ATTEND THE NORTH KOREAN MEETING. STEYAERT SAID HE REPLIED TO DJIN THAT BELGIANS WOULD NOT MIX BOTH A DJIN VISIT TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE NORTH KOREAN MEETING.
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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